

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You that You are sovereign, good, faithful, and loving - and that we can trust You even when the world around us pulls us toward different values and loyalties. As we reflect on Daniel's example, teach us not simply to believe in You, but to believe You: to trust Your control when life feels uncertain, Your care when we are worried about what we need, and Your commands when obedience is difficult. Give us courage to live faithfully without conforming to the culture around us, and use our conversation today to help us encourage one another and grow in our faith. Help us hear what You want to say and respond with obedience. In Jesus' name, amen.

ICE BREAKER

In the video, Jordan described feeling a void and brokenness before returning to faith, and then finding healing through a life group. In what ways have you experienced or witnessed community playing a role in spiritual growth that individual faith alone could not provide?

SERMON OVERVIEW

What does it mean to truly believe God rather than simply believe in God? That question sits at the heart of this powerful exploration of the life of Daniel. We dive into one of the Bible's most compelling stories, tracing Daniel's journey from his homeland into the heart of Babylon, a culture built entirely on human achievement and the rejection of divine authority. Babylon is not just an ancient city, it is a symbol of something we encounter every single day: a worldview that says humans can determine right and wrong on their own, that science and reason are the only guides to truth, and that personal flourishing is the highest goal in life. Sound familiar? The parallels to our modern world are striking. Daniel walked into that culture as a teenager, and the first thing Babylon tried to do was strip him of his identity and reshape his loyalties. The same pressure exists for us today. Yet Daniel did not simply acknowledge that God existed. He anchored himself in what God is actually like: sovereign, good, faithful, and loving. Those characteristics became the foundation that held him steady when the culture around him demanded conformity. This is an invitation for us to examine our own anchors and ask whether we are truly believing God or just believing in him.

READ SCRIPTURE

DANIEL 1:1-16; 6; 9:1-3; MALACHI 3:10; ROMANS 12:2

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) Babylon attempted to reshape Daniel's identity, worldview, and loyalty - even giving him a new name. Recall a time when you felt pressure to become someone others wanted you to be or to compromise something important to you. How did that experience affect you?
- 2) Pastor Kurt drew a distinction between believing in God and believing God. In your own words, what is the difference? Which one better describes where you are right now, and why?
- 3) The sermon presents God's sovereignty, goodness, faithfulness, and love as anchors during life's storms. Which of these characteristics of God do you find hardest to hold onto when circumstances feel out of control, and why?

GROW SPIRITUALLY

4) The sermon draws a connection between the Tower of Babel in Genesis and the Babylonian empire in Daniel, suggesting that human civilization organized apart from God leads to confusion. Where do you see that pattern playing out in contemporary society?

5) Pastor Kurt pointed to both general revelation - what creation reveals about God (Romans 1:20) - and specific revelation through Scripture, God's activity, and ultimately Jesus. What has been most significant in convincing you that God is real and trustworthy? How might you describe that evidence to someone who is still trying to decide what they believe?

6) Daniel participated in Babylonian life in many ways - learning its language, receiving an education, and serving its kings - but he also knew there were places where he could not compromise. How do we discern the difference between adapting to the culture around us and compromising our convictions? Where is that line particularly difficult to recognize today?

LIVE GENEROUSLY

7) Daniel found a way to live and serve effectively in Babylon without allowing Babylon to determine his convictions. Romans 12:2 similarly tells us not to conform to the patterns of this world. Where might you currently be tempted to fit in rather than remain faithful? What would one practical act of nonconformity look like this week?

8) The lion's den story reveals that Daniel's enemies could find no corruption in him. The only thing they could use against him was his faithfulness to God. What would it look like for your faith to be that visible and that consistent in your own context?

9) Daniel didn't simply avoid being changed by Babylon - through his faithfulness, he eventually changed Babylon, influencing powerful people toward the God he served. Pastor Kurt encouraged us to worship regularly, live generously, and engage relationally. Which of these three practices could most strengthen your ability to influence others toward Jesus right now? What is one specific step you can take this week?

TAKE ACTION

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please invite each group member to share their next step, if they have one.

PRAY TOGETHER

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that's weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

ENGAGE TOGETHER



Explore your next on Serve Finder: Whether you're interested in serving on a team at Northview, making a difference in our local communities, or traveling globally on a Go Trip, Serve Finder is here to help you explore what God might be calling you to next. Serving at Northview is a powerful way to live out your Kingdom purpose—using your time, talents, and gifts while also building meaningful connections with others. Sign up today!